



**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

802 LEHUA AVENUE  
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782  
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SCOTT T. NAGO  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

**TESTIMONY OF THE  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1755, HD 1  
RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION**

**February 24, 2012**

Chair Oshiro and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1755, HD 1. The purpose of this bill is to provide for online voter registration and to make various housekeeping changes to our voter registration laws.

In order to provide another opportunity for the registration of eligible voters, the present bill authorizes applicants to register electronically. This will require the creation of an online voter registration system. Given the technological issues associated with planning and designing such a system, this bill appropriates \$500,000 for fiscal year 2012-2013 for that purpose. The possible need for additional funding for the implementation of the system will be addressed after the planning and design stage.

The bill additionally makes minor housekeeping changes to update our voter registration laws to delete references to antiquated or obsolete processes and technologies. For example, the bill removes the requirement to maintain a separate voter registration list for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, as now all registered voters are eligible to vote for those seats.

Finally, the bill removes the requirement to post a list of all registered voters in each precinct at the polling place. Voters have expressed privacy concerns in the past as the list is required to include the voter's residence address, unless a voter has gone through the process of obtaining confidential status to have the information removed.

In order to ensure access to the necessary government databases and the expertise associated with those databases, which would be necessary for the planning, design, and implementation of the online voter registration system, we would ask that the Committee consider amending the bill to include the following subsection at the end of Section 1.

"(f) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the examiners of drivers, the attorney general, and any other agency or official, which issues government identification or maintains databases that in the opinion of election officials can be utilized to confirm a prospective voter's identity, verify the accuracy of the information provided on applications for voter registration, or otherwise ensure the continuing integrity of the voter registration rolls, shall provide to election officials real time access to those databases."

Additionally, we would ask the Committee to amend Section 8 to clarify that the effective date for purposes of the appropriation in Section 6 is upon approval and that the remaining sections would take effect on November 8, 2016.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1755, HD 1.

JEFFREY T. KUWADA  
County Clerk



LANCE TAGUCHI  
Deputy County Clerk

**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**

COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
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**TESTIMONY OF**

**JEFFREY T. KUWADA, COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF MAUI**

**TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1755, HD 1**

**RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION**

**FEBRUARY 24, 2012**

Chair Oshiro and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1755, HD 1. The purpose of this bill is to provide for online voter registration and housekeeping changes to current voter registration laws.

House Bill No. 1755, HD 1 will allow eligible individuals the opportunity to register to vote electronically. This will require the creation of an online voter registration system. There will be technological issues associated with planning and designing such a system. We support the appropriation included in the bill.

We respectfully request the Committee consider adding a provision requiring government agencies and officials that issue government identification or maintain databases containing personal information to provide to election officials information that can be used to confirm a prospective registered voter's identity and verify the accuracy of information provided in applications for voter registration. It is imperative that election officials have real time access to such information.

We favor the removal of the requirement calling for the posting of a list of all registered voters in each precinct at the polling place. Registered voters have in the past expressed concern that the list includes their residence address.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill No. 1755, HD 1.

**RICKY R. WATANABE**  
County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4800  
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**JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA**  
Deputy County Clerk

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**ELECTIONS DIVISION  
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**  
4386 RICE STREET, SUITE 101  
LIHU'E, KAUA'I, HAWAII 96766-1819

**TESTIMONY OF  
RICKY R. WATANABE  
COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUA'I  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1755, HD1  
RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION  
February 24, 2012**

Chair Oshiro and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill No. 1755, HD1. The purpose of this bill is to authorize the acceptance of electronic applications to register to vote and to provide the funding required to develop an online voter registration system.

The bill will establish a convenient means for individuals to register to vote which will expedite the voter registration process for both registrants and election officials. Additionally, an online voter registration system will modernize registration methods and perhaps encourage younger eligible voters to register.

House Bill No. 1755, HD1 also includes minor housekeeping changes to update our voter registration laws to conform to online voter registration, and remove references to obsolete processes and technologies.

Lastly, the bill addresses voter privacy concerns by removing the requirement to post a list of registered voters in each precinct at the polling place.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill No. 1755, HD1.

**RICKY R. WATANABE**  
County Clerk



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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February 22, 2012

TO: Chair Marcus Oshiro, Vice Chair Marilyn Lee  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

FROM: Americans for Democratic Action/Hawaii  
Barbara Polk, Legislative Chair

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1755 HD 1 RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION

Americans for Democratic Action/Hawaii supports electronic voter registration. Making it easier to register is an important step toward increasing voter participation. Especially for younger people, the use of the computer as a means of doing business is now the norm. Many no longer have printers (that would be necessary to print out mail-in voter registration forms). Electronic voter registration greatly streamlines the process, while the potential for fraud appears to be no greater than mail-in voter registration.

We urge your support for HB 1755 HD1.



*Hawaii*  
**COMMON CAUSE**  
*Holding Power Accountable*

House FIN Committee  
Chair Marcus Oshiro, Vice Chair Marilyn Lee

Friday 2/24/12 at 12:00 noon in Room 308  
HB1755 HD1 – Voter Registration

TESTIMONY

Nikki Love, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

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Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Committee Members:

**Common Cause Hawaii supports HB1755 HD1.** This bill allows for the establishment of online voter registration, and appropriates funds to create and implement the system.

**We support this effort to modernize voter registration for the 21st century and reduce barriers to voting.** Hawaii has been consistently at or near the bottom of all 50 states in voter turnout, and every effort should be made to encourage eligible citizens to participate. The numbers from the 2010 General Election show that there are 930,624 eligible voters in Hawaii, but only 690,748 registered voters. This leaves an estimated 239,876 potential voters -- 26% of those eligible -- who were not registered at the time of the 2010 General Election.<sup>1</sup> Online voter registration can make participation in our democratic process more accessible and convenient. Furthermore, an online system could be used for existing voters to update their registration after moving residences.

**Online voter registration can also provide greater accuracy in the voter rolls and save significant money in the long term, by streamlining the process and reducing the burden of data entry.** A study by the Pew Center on the States showed that in Arizona, it costs an average of three cents to process an online application compared to an average of 83 cents per paper application; in Washington, the state saves 25 cents per online application

(continued on next page...)

and counties save between 50 cents and \$2.00 per online application compared to paper forms.<sup>ii</sup>

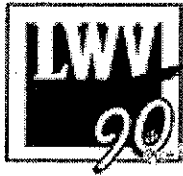
Please note the current effective date for this bill is not until November 2016. We would urge the Committee to ensure the system can be ready for use by the 2014 elections, if at all possible.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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<sup>i</sup> Voter turnout data from: [http://elections.gmu.edu/Turnout\\_2010G.html](http://elections.gmu.edu/Turnout_2010G.html),  
<http://hawaii.gov/elections/results/2010/general/files/histatewide.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> "Online Voter Registration: Case Studies in Arizona and Washington" (Pew Center on the States, 2010),  
[http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/report\\_detail.aspx?id=58215](http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/report_detail.aspx?id=58215).



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

*League of Women Voters of Hawaii*

49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813

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**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
MARCUS R. OSHIRO, CHAIR, MARILYN B. LEE, VICE CHAIR  
FEBRUARY 24, 2012, 12:00 P.M., CONFERENCE ROOM 308  
HB 1755, HD 1 RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION**

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

Aloha, my name is Carmille Lim, board member and Voter Services Chair of the League of Women Voters of Hawaii, and I thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of our members throughout Hawai'i.

On behalf of the League, I am respectfully submitting my testimony in support of HB1755, HD1. This bill would establish an online system for electronic voter registration, which would allow eligible voters to register entirely online instead of using hard-copy paper forms. If implemented, we can expect to see a decrease in monies spent on paper forms and an increase in voter registration and turnout.

There are currently 12 states that have implemented online voter registration, and we hope that Hawai'i will soon follow. The League of Women Voters supports this bill for the following 4 reasons:

**1 . Online voter registration is cost-effective and saves states millions of dollars each year:**

- In recent years, states like California, Louisiana, Indiana, and Colorado have implemented the reform to great success – and this has also resulted in significant savings. For example: in Maricopa County, Arizona, processing an online voter registration now costs the state 3 cents, compared to 83 cents for each paper registration. Due to its popularity, online registration has helped reduce printing costs by 75% in the county. Washington State has also experienced a similar cost reduction at both the state and county level. Washington's Secretary of State's office (Washington's Secretary of State serves as the state's chief elections officer) reports saving 25 cents per online application, while counties have saved anywhere from 50 cents to \$2 with each application.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Anonymous. "Cost Savings Win Bipartisan Support for Online Voter Registration." Progressive States Network. March 3, 2011. <http://www.progressivestates.org/news/dispatch/cost-savings-win-bipartisan-support-online-voter-registration>



- Additionally, it cost Arizona less than \$130,000 and Washington state \$279,000 to implement both online voter registration *and* automated voter registration at DMVs.<sup>2</sup>

## **2. Streamlines the registration process for election officials:**

- Online voter registration ensures that citizens' information goes directly to election officials, thus reducing the number of people who have to handle a registration application. This greatly reduces the chances for human and data entry errors.
- Allowing Hawai'i residents to register to vote or update their registrations online would likely reduce the number of provisional ballots cast at the polls, which can prove costly and time-consuming to process.

## **3. Would likely increase the accuracy of voter lists:**

- Again, online voter registration would significantly reduce the data entry work county officials must do to process new registrations.
- Hawai'i already has an electronic record of the signature for most people with a Hawai'i state driver's license or state-issued ID card. So by transferring electronic data between the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Office of Elections, we can allow people to register to vote online without the delays and errors that can occur when mailing in a handwritten paper form which then has to be entered by hand into a registration database.

## **4. Due to its convenience, online voter registration would likely increase voter participation, especially from those of the "younger" generation:**

- Completing an online voter registration form makes it easier for many voters to register -- particularly among the "younger" generation and those who spend more time online.
- In 2003, Arizona was the first state to implement Online Voter Registration, and reported an improvement in voter turnout -- greatest among young voters. In 2008, voters under 34 years old who registered online turned out at 93 percent compared to a 73 percent turnout rate for younger voters who registered "offline."<sup>3</sup>
- Registration rates among 18-24 year-old citizens rose from 28 to 53 percent after Arizona introduced online and automated registration.

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<sup>2</sup> Ponoroff. "Voter Registration in a Digital Age." Brennan Center for Justice. July 13, 2010. [http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/voter\\_registration\\_in\\_a\\_digital\\_age/](http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/voter_registration_in_a_digital_age/)

<sup>3</sup> Baretto, Glaser, Mac Donald, Collingwood, Pedraza, Pump. "Online Voter Registration Systems in Arizona and Washington: Evaluating Usage, Public Confidence and Implementation Process." Wiser Institute of the Study of Ethnicity and Race & Election Administration Research Center. April 10, 2010. [http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewcenteronthestatesorg/Initiatives/MVW/online\\_voter\\_reg.pdf?n=2908](http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewcenteronthestatesorg/Initiatives/MVW/online_voter_reg.pdf?n=2908)

In these tough times, online voter registration is an important step in making voter registration more modern and cost-effective. We support the online voter registration to register new voters and allow existing voters to update their registrations online.

***We have a few specific comments about amendments to the original measure:***

In Section 11-24 (c), we note that as a way to protect voter privacy, the preparation of a list of registered voters for use by precinct officials has been deleted, together with a posting of this list at precinct polling places.

**We request that instead, each precinct publish a list of all registered voters in each precinct district, but without the individuals' addresses.** We advise that elections officials post a list containing the names of those who reside in that precinct district, at each precinct, in order to eliminate some of the time required for precinct officials to answer questions about one's correct polling place, while saving voters the time it takes to wait in line at an incorrect polling place.

**Additionally, we ask that precinct workers assigned to poll books are allowed to keep a list of individuals' names and addresses for their own purpose, or for people to view** (by visiting with that worker). This addresses the need to protect voter privacy to some extent, while still allowing for one to verify voter fraud (by vetting the address of someone listed).

Finally, the League supports the November 8, 2016 effective date as a realistic target for studying, developing and testing the new online registration system.

*The League of Women Voters of Hawaii humbly asks you to continue supporting this bill.*

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

February 23, 2012

Re: HB 1755, H.D. 1, Relating to Voter Registration.  
House Committee on Finance Hearing: February 24, 2012, 12:00 Noon,  
Conference Room 308.

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee, and Finance Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding HB 1755.

I strongly **support** this bill.

Online voter registration in Hawai'i is long overdue, and it will soon pay for itself many times over. Arizona, for example, which pioneered online voter registration about a decade ago now, has realized hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings each year, not only by reducing unnecessary paper handling and data entry, but also by automating review for most registrations.

Online voter registration will help voter turnout, and thus strengthen our democracy in a time when it is threatened by an unrestricted tsunami of private cash thanks to the 2010 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*, 130 S.Ct. 876 (2010).

Please pass HB 1755, with an effective date as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

R. Elton Johnson, III

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**ent:** Thursday, February 23, 2012 1:31 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** Shaunaghr@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1755 on 2/24/2012 12:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 12:00:00 PM HB1755

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Shaunagh Robbins  
Organization: Common Cause  
E-mail: [Shaunaghr@aol.com](mailto:Shaunaghr@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

**Comments:**

We need to do everything we can to get more people to vote. This is a proven way and has had great success in other states. With the islands spread out the way they are, this is a perfect method for Hawaii to employ to get voters involved in the important issues of the State and country. Please vote to approve this bill.

## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**ent:** Thursday, February 23, 2012 12:54 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** ndavlantes@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1755 on 2/24/2012 12:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 12:00:00 PM HB1755

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Nancy Davlantes  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [ndavlantes@aol.com](mailto:ndavlantes@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

### Comments:

I am delighted to see that this bill is moving forward as I fully support this effort to modernize voter registration for the 21st century and reduce barriers to voting. This will make registration more convenient, improve accuracy and efficiency, and save money in the long run. However, I do ask the committee to move the effective date up earlier than November 2016 so voters can use it in 2014.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

( Nancy Davlantes  
Kaneohe

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**ent:** Thursday, February 23, 2012 11:51 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** paul.mckimmy@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1755 on 2/24/2012 12:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 12:00:00 PM HB1755

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Paul McKimmy  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [paul.mckimmy@gmail.com](mailto:paul.mckimmy@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

**Comments:**

It's time to modernize voter registration... but please move the date up so we can use it for 2014!

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2012 4:23 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** brenching@juno.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1755 on 2/24/2012 12:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 12:00:00 PM HB1755

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Brenda Ching  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [brenching@juno.com](mailto:brenching@juno.com)  
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments: